

GEORGE ADE'S LATEST FABLE.

The Humorous Writer's Story With a Moral to Aid Chicago Charity.

George Ade, to boost the big charity ball in the Auditorium theater, December 19, has written "The Fable of the Hopeful Man Who Was Let in on a

Good Thing." Here it is:

Once there was a representative business man who lived in Chicago and often sat at the head table with flowers in front of him when some association pulled a banquet.

He was a prominent citizen and never tried to deny it because it was no use. His roll-top desk was so placed

that through an open doorway he could see the bright-faced young book-keeper jumping nimbly from the day book to the ledger, while from the window he could see the large red wagons being loaded with merchandise for Meadota, Minn.; Hiawatha, Kas., and Plattsbury, Mo. Every time a wagon pulled out of the alley, he could figure on another pearl for Pettie's rope. It is a gay life when you get things coming your way.

One day while he was tilted back trying to decide whether he would build the new palace at Lake Geneva, Oconomowoc or Highland Park, a friend floated into his office and wanted to know about the times.

"Fine and fancy," replied the business man. "The country is staggering with surplus collateral. The air is surcharged with hope. Behold the farmer! This is the week of the fat stock show and you can't help but be told him. He has a new fur overcoat that hasn't costled very much as yet. A Philip Reimer suit of college clothes with pockets on the bias and buttons in the most unexpected places (such as you see advertised on the back page of any weekly paper published in the east and supported in the west) and say, you can't touch him with a 10-foot pole. He has corn in the crib, live stock in the feed yard and money in the bank and this is his year to aviate."

"His prosperity will be transmitted to other and less industrious members of the community," suggested the visitor.

"You know it," responded the business man. "When he begins to jar loose and let a current of air come between him and all the currency, the whole works will begin to hum. Why, in every E flat four of the middle-west the blatted prosperity is putting in hurry orders for red autos, silver plated cream separators, Cossack records, upright pianos, lavender colored rugs and crayon portraits of deceased relatives. With the movement of crops the railroads will get theirs, the country merchant will get his and then in due time, I, the person, really most concerned in the return of the American people to a basis of solid prosperity, will get mine—in bales, bundles, crates and caddies."

"I am delighted to hear it," said the visitor, "as I am here this morning to get to you on behalf of the charity ball."

"Perhaps I spoke in haste," said the merchant prince, throwing a little sand on the track and trying to reverse. "In some respects this promises to be a tough year. The cost of living is very high and the wave of prosperity has not yet hit the wage earners in the big cities so that you could notice it."

"Quite true," said the visitor. "That is exactly why the ladies need the money."

And he showed him where to sign his name.

Moral: Produce! No excuse goes this year.—Chicago News.

Parent—Willie, my father used to whip me when I behaved as badly as you are doing.

Willie—Well, I hope I'll never have to tell my little boy that.—Boston Advertiser.

THE GREAT OAK OF FRANCE.

Near Dax, in southwestern France, exists a very remarkable oak, which is an object of veneration for the inhabitants of the surrounding regions. Its short trunk is encircled with gigantic raised roots, giving it, at the level of the ground, a circumference of eighty-two feet.

The massive branches spread over a circle so broad that 500 persons can find room beneath them. The age of the tree is estimated to be not less than 2,000 years, yet it shows few signs of decrepitude, although the interior of the trunk is hollow. It is the first tree in the neighborhood to cover itself with leaves and the last to be deprived of them. At the junction of the immense branches are two cavities which are always full of water, and the peasants ascribe miraculous properties to this water. Once every year there is a pilgrimage to the sacred oak of Quillacq, and at midnight between June 23 and 24 the pilgrims begin their devotions around the foot of the tree.—Youth's Companion.

SELF-RELIANT.

Ellen stopped scrubbing the veranda steps long enough to cast an admiring eye on her employer's garden. "Sure they are fine posies you have, doctor," she said. "I've a neat little house I bought with the money I'd put by, and an elegant garden it had last year, too, but now there's neither stick nor stalk in it."

"What was it, horse or dog?" asked the doctor, sympathetically, mentioning his own aversion.

"Sure me neighbor—bad luck to her!—had a ditch dug in her land, and the water ran down into me garden, and washed all me seeds away."

"And what did you do about it?"

"What could a poor lone body like me do?"

"Well, didn't you at least say something to the woman, complain, or tell her that you wouldn't stand it?"

"Now, doctor, dear, hard words just

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leads to bad feelings among neighbors, and that ye know as well as I do; and it's not me that would be using them. So I only said to her, I hope I'll live to see the floods flowing over your gate as your ditch waters have flooded over my garden, and let it go at that."

POETRY AND PROSE.

"What a beautiful sight it is, Mrs. Bates, to see your two little boys always together!" the summer boarder exclaimed in ecstasy, on the approach of Bobby and Tommy Bates, hand in hand. "Such brotherly love is as rare as it is exquisite."

Mrs. Bates nodded in pleasant assent.

"I tell you," she said, "that they're as inseparable as a pair of pants."

—Youth's Companion.

DINT OF PRACTICE.
"How did Jobbins come to be such a logical and unanswerable debater?"

"By force of habit. His wife always makes him put down the carpets; so he knows how to floor his opponent and keep him nailed down."—Baltimore American.

DAILY FASHION TALKS

BY MAY MANTON

A FASHIONABLE EVENING WRAP.

CAPEs are being extensively utilized this season for a great many occasions and there are a number of designs offered but none is better or more chic in effect than this one. It combines two materials, it takes long and graceful lines, it is really attractive yet it does not rumple the gown beneath.

This one is made of moist velvours combined with velvet and trimmed with soutache, but it could be made of moiré or of velvet throughout with the yoke braided or embroidered or overlaid with appliqué, or it could be made of cloth or silk with or without a yoke of velvet or moiré. Cloth throughout with the yoke trimmed in some effective manner would be handsome, smart and serviceable. The high collar gives the military effect that is so much in vogue just now and the cape is altogether one of the prettiest and most graceful that the season has brought forth. For warmth it can be lined with silk and interlined with a thin layer of wool wadding, which, in light weight, means very little bulk yet makes the wrap cosy and warm in the extreme.

For the medium size will be required 6½ yards of material, 27, 3 yards 44 or 52 inches wide with ½ yard of velvet. A May Manton pattern, No. 4003, sizes small 32 or 34, medium 36 or 38, large 40 or 42 inches bust, will be mailed to any address by the Fashion Department of this paper on receipt of ten cents. (If in haste send an additional two cent stamp for letter postage which insures more prompt delivery.)

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